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HOUSE MEMORIAL 110

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Nick L. Salazar

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE FISCAL IMPACTS ON
CITIES AND COUNTIES IN THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY'S
EMPLOYMENT BASE AREA RESULTING FROM THE CHANGED TAX STATUS OF
THE LABORATORY'S NEW CONTRACT AND REQUESTING THAT A
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN BE DEVELOPED FOR THE
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY'S EMPLOYMENT BASE AREA.

WHEREAS, Los Alamos national laboratory was established
over sixty-three years ago; and

WHEREAS, Los Alamos national laboratory's budget of more
than two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) creates a
significant, regional economic engine; and

WHEREAS, Los Alamos national laboratory's total work force
of approximately fifteen thousand makes it the largest employer
in northern New Mexico; and

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1 WHEREAS, Los Alamos national laboratory provides
2 employment for New Mexicans from many counties, including Los
3 Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Bernalillo and Taos; and

4 WHEREAS, the United States, through its agencies, has
5 "recompeted" the contract for operation of Los Alamos national
6 laboratory, and the new contract took effect on June 1, 2006;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the new contract caused a change in the taxable
9 status of Los Alamos national laboratory's operations; and

10 WHEREAS, the change in tax status has had an enormous
11 fiscal impact on Los Alamos national laboratory, including a
12 budget deficit, reductions in work force and other changes that
13 adversely impact the people and economy of north central New
14 Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, the new taxable status requires that Los Alamos
16 national laboratory pay gross receipts taxes in an amount equal
17 to approximately forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) to Los
18 Alamos county and fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to the
19 state of New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has not assessed the
21 fiscal impact on cities and counties within Los Alamos national
22 laboratory's employment base area; and

23 WHEREAS, the regional economy in the Los Alamos national
24 laboratory's employment base area continues to experience
25 extreme dependency on laboratory funding, remains vulnerable to

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1 past, present and future laboratory job cuts and lacks
2 significant investment needed to build a new, sustainable
3 economy;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state of
6 New Mexico, through its appropriate agencies, immediately
7 conduct a comprehensive assessment of fiscal impacts on cities
8 and counties in Los Alamos national laboratory's employment
9 base area resulting from the changed tax status of the
10 laboratory's new contract and that the state conduct a
11 comprehensive economic development plan for that area.

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